

RINALDI

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SCAR

Italians Deny NATO Spy Link

Turin, Italy, March 23 (AP)—The Italian Defense Ministry denied tonight that officials of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization were involved in a Soviet spy network concentrating on United States bases in Western Europe.

In a brief communique issued in Rome, the Ministry said press reports that some NATO officials had been implicated were "without any foundation."

Informants had told newsmen yesterday that Giorgio Rinaldi, an Italian held in Turin as the key man in the alleged spy network, had implicated 300 NATO employees in the espionage operation.

In Paris, a communique from NATO headquarters said NATO "has been informed that the news ... with respect to the alleged involvement of 300 NATO officers in the spy ring discovered in Italy lacks any foundation."